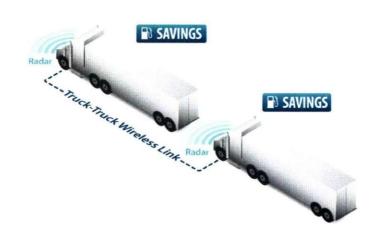
Essentials of Truck Platooning

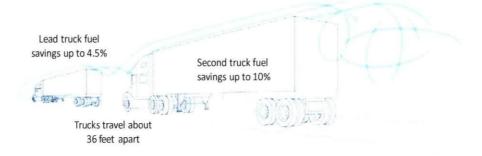
In a **platoon**, trucks follow more closely than usual. Human drivers man both trucks and attentively operate and steer them. The trucks communicate automatically by digital wireless to continuously synchronize their speed and maintain constant headway.





The safe following distance for platooning trucks is much shorter than for manually driven trucks, because vehicle-to-vehicle communication eliminates the driver's perception and reaction times from the braking process.

Closer truck spacing reduces aerodynamic drag, providing fuel savings for both trucks. Fuel consumption and vehicle emissions are reduced up to 4½% for the lead truck and 10% for the following truck.





To date, 29 states have adopted legislation allowing platooned vehicles to operate at closer following distances. Others are considering similar legislation.

Illustrations adapted from https://peloton-tech.com/

SDDOT Office of Research October 2019